



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2023

Dear U3A members,

We wish you health and happiness in 2023 and the resilience to cope with the difficult days. Moreover, we wish you friendship, fun and interest in your U3A activities. This first newsletter of the year contains:

1. U3A News and updates
2. Monthly Meetings
3. Outings and Foodies
4. News from the Groups

1. U3A News and Updates

Well, the website is back in business and any photos you have of your U3A activities can now be uploaded.

Membership Renewal

It seems early in the year but we are asking you to start to think about membership renewals which fall due at the end of March (ah.. daffodils and tulips...). If you know anyone who is thinking of joining our U3A tell them that if they join in February they will get an extra 2 months membership for free!

Here is the message from our membership secretary, Lynn Wild:

Membership Renewals 2023/2024

The Membership fee for 01/04/23 to 31/03/24 will remain at £15 (£11 for Associate members).

Renewal emails will be sent out on the 28/29th January 2023. For those without email, letters will be available for collection at the January & February meetings or distributed with your Newsletter.

These will contain the renewal information and your current details that we have on record. If any of your details are incorrect, please contact Lynn Wild at memsec.littleboroughu3a@gmail.com or phone 01706 372401.

Information on how to renew your membership is included in the email/letter.

Please inform me if you **do not** wish to renew or would like to suspend your membership. This will stop you receiving reminder emails or phone calls.

Lynn

2. Monthly Meetings

We were royally entertained at our Christmas meeting by the choir, the ukulele band, a quiz and the story of La Befana (an Italian Christmas witch who gives coal instead of sweets to naughty children). Prosecco and mince pies finished a fun afternoon. Two weeks and a whole year ago!

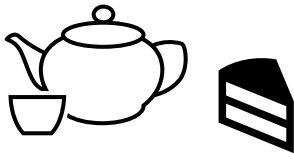


Monday January 9th at 2pm in Littleborough

Coach House: The Story of the restoration of an unusual vessel and the Manchester Ship Canal: The Danny Restoration Group.

Attached please find a full list of the Monthly Meeting dates and speakers for 2023 – for those of you who prefer to print this off and pin it on the fridge or noticeboard. Note that the May meeting is a week later than it should be – because of the additional Coronation Bank Holiday.

3. Foodies



Thursday January 26th at 1pm: Afternoon tea at Cuppacino Bistro in Hare Hill Park. £16. All members welcome. Please contact Sandra on 07828 297991 to reserve a place.

4. News from the Groups

Upcoming Group Meetings:



History: **January 16th** from 1.30 to 3.30pm in Littleborough History Rooms. Please go along if you are interested in helping to relaunch this group.



Craft Group meetings at Hare Hill House 1pm to 3pm: New members always welcome

Thursday 12 January: Button Art

Monday 23rd January: Exploding Card



Quiz Group

Thursday January 19th at 2.30pm in The Red Lion on Halifax Road, Littleborough. Teams are formed on the day so just turn up.

Member enquiries about the Craft Group or the Quiz Group, contact Sandra on 07828 297991



Walking Groups

Tuesday January 10th: details to follow (check the website). Approximately 4 miles taking about 2 hours.

Tuesday January 24th: Easy Walking Group. Meet at 2pm at Littleborough Library for a short circular stroll and maybe a drink and biscuit in the library afterwards.

Please let Barrie Whitehead know if you are attending – or not.

Focus on: Learning a Language with the U3A

Language learning groups have been part of the U3A tradition from the beginning and we have a strong set of groups in Littleborough. Groups are usually relatively small because that gives all members a real chance to participate. We learn together, helping each other, not competing and hoping for a chance to try out our new language skills in their native land one day. They say that learning a language is one of the best things we can do to keep our brains healthy and active as we get older.

At the moment we are looking to set up two new language groups: German and a new Beginners' French Group. Watch this space for more news of these.

Here is a little information about each of the current language groups. If members or convenors would like to send me anything further about these groups, I will happily include it in the next newsletter. I was asking a lot of convenors to take time out of their Christmas celebrations to write to me – so a big thank you to those who did.

French

Bonjour!

The longest running of our language groups and always very popular, this group meets weekly on Thursday mornings in the convenor's house to speak and learn French through fun activities and to learn about French culture and life as well. The group motto is 'Fun, friendship and French'

Bonne Année a tous!

Spanish

Hola

We have two Spanish groups, both meeting on Friday afternoons in members' homes. Here is what Roger Crossley, convenor of the Spanish Improvers Group says:

Spanish Improvers

'We are a small informal group, currently 5 people, who meet every Friday afternoon for a couple of hours at one of our houses to talk in Spanish and do exercises to improve our grammar, vocabulary and confidence in Spanish. We are self-taught using whatever external resources we can muster and our members take turns to conduct each week's session. This may involve listening exercises, reading and translation, discussion and games. Most weeks we each will prepare a charla, a short talk about a random topic. In addition from time to time we will have an external activity, usually going for a (more or less) Spanish meal, often joined by previous members. As to achievement level — think an average GCSE grade.'

Feliz ano nuevo a todos

(there should be a wobbly line over the 'n' in 'ano' but I neither know what it is called nor how to create it...I am sticking to Italian...)

We have no fewer than four Italian groups in Littleborough U3A including a brand new Beginner's group. Here is the message from Sue Robinson and Emer Duckworth who are convening this new group:

'Emer and Sue are delighted that a new Italian Beginners group will be starting this week. We are meeting up at Littleborough Bowling Club on Thursday 5th January at 10.30 and then fortnightly. Our aim is to enjoy learning and to foster a love of the Italian language and culture ... we are so looking forward to it.'

Italian Improvers 2

From Tricia Swaby, convenor of Italian Improvers Group 2 which meets on alternate Tuesday mornings in the convenor's home:

At present there are 3 members and me. One lady has recently joined and is a beginner. Others attend when they can to practice their Italian and plug gaps in their knowledge. There could be space for two more members if anyone is interested to join who has already done a bit of Italian.

Italian Improvers 1: Convenor Jo Wiggans.

We meet in my house on alternate Wednesday mornings. We aim to always have a chance to practice speaking Italian, reading and listening and responding to questions. Sometimes we do a little research – e.g. we take a region of Italy and group members prepare a short text on the food, the sights, where to stay, how to get there etc. to share with the group. We also do grammar revision, especially of the verb forms. The group currently has 9 members and is full.

Italian Conversation: Convenor Valerie Leach. This group has 8 members and meets fortnightly on Wednesday mornings (alternating with the group above) in the homes of members. The group concentrates on conversation, chatting in Italian and reading Italian texts. Members have mostly been studying Italian for a few years.

Ciao e buon anno a tutti!

Next month I would like to feature the Reading, Writing and Discussion groups. I would like to include:

Reading Groups 1 and 2
Creative Writing
Poetry Appreciation
Philosophy
Discussion Group

I will be in touch with convenors to ask for contributions to the newsletter.

And finally, I look forward to seeing you at U3A events and I hope you find much in your U3A to help you through January. These can be dark and dismal days but I aim to include a picture of my first snowdrops in the next newsletter. Spring is only round the corner. Very best wishes to you all.

Jo Wiggans

I resolve to stop procrastinating this new year. Starting tomorrow.